

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

L-03 EUR-12 /068 W

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R 201140Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1631

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR XA

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REF: STATE 020621 AND 037870

1. GUINEA IS HEAVILY ARMED RELATIVE TO NEIGHBORS. EQUIPMENT IS ALMOST ENTIRELY OF SOVIET ORIGIN AND INCLUDES FOUR MIG 21'S SIX TO EIGHT MIG 17'S, SAM MISSILES, TANKS, STALIN ORGANS. SEKOU TOURE'S GUINEA IS DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF INTERNAL OPPOSITION, OF EXILED DISSIDENTS (WHO NUMBER UP TO ONE MILLION), OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AND OF LOOSELY DEFINED "IMPERIALIST, CAPITALIST AND NEO-COLONIALIST" POWERS. TOURE IS COMMITTED TO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS AND PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTIONS IN AFRICA. HE HAS DESPATCHED GUINEAN BATTALION VIA SOVIET TRANSPORTS TO FIGHT FOR MPLA IN ANGOLA, AND IS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TROOPS TO OTHER AFRICAN CAUSES HE SUPPORTS.

2. MUCH OF SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET INFLUENCE IN GUINEA IS BASED UPON GENEROUS SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SOVIETS WILL CERTAINLY WISH TO MAINTAIN THIS LEVERAGE BY CONTINUED DELIVERIES. REAL SECURITY THREAT TO GUINEA IS UNCLEAR AT BEST. PERCEIVED THREATS MAY BE OF DUBIOUS RATIONALITY BUT ARE NONETHELESS TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SEE NO REPEAT NO POSSIBILITY OF PERSUADING GUINEA TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT OR TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL RESTRAINTS PROGRAM AS LONG AS PRESIDENT
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TOURE IS IN OFFICE. IN FACT, APPROACHES ON THIS SUBJECT, PART-

ICULARLY BY US BUT BY OTHERS AS WELL, WOULD BE VIEWED WITH
UTMOST SUSPICION AND MIGHT WELL PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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